**THE WORK HOLIDAY PARTY** OFTEN A VICTIM OF A SHAKY ECONOMY {page 18}

# u-S-OH!

## KATY AND OTHERS SALUTE THE TROOPS {page 10}

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**Santa.** Parade

▶ Santa Claus makes his way down Howe Street yesterday during the seventh annual Rogers Santa Claus Parade.

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

## A parade of Olympian proportions

**About 300,000 people took in the annual procession yesterday, which included a strong contingent of blue-clad Olympic and Paralympic volunteers. The parade also collected food for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank. Story, page 3.**

### Get 'em sharp and lace 'em up

Robson Square rink opens for a new season of skating {page 4}

### Coalition forces target Taliban

Offensive may be Canada's last in Afghanistan {page 6}

# East Van schools survive

**◗ Closures would have saved $1.5 million ◗ Board will consider other ways to economize ◗ Among options is using schools for community programs**

STEPHANIE ORFORD
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

Students and parents of five East Side elementary schools breathed a sigh of relief yesterday as trustees announced the schools would be saved from closure and that the process would be shelved until March 2012.

A Vancouver School Board report, which comes before the board for a vote on Dec. 14, calls for a moratorium on the proposed closures.

Board chairwoman Patti Bacchus said major public outcry against the closures had an impact on the board's recommendation.

"What we heard absolutely convinced us that closing these schools was not the right solution," she said, adding that enrolment is predicted to increase in the area.

"If we close this space down now, we're in the position of having to reopen it in a couple of years. We could actually be financially further behind."

Carleton Grade 5 teacher Scott Macdonald expressed his relief at a celebration rally yesterday.

"We believe that our schools have value," he said. "Schools have to become centres of learning for the entire community."

STEPHANIE ORFORD / FOR METRO

▶ Carleton Elementary students celebrate the decision to keep five East Vancouver schools from closing.

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1463 Kingsway Ave
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526 West Broadway
555 West Hastings, Unit 15
(Harbour Centre)
88 West Pender St
(Tinseltown)

## Arrests in North Van. assault

Two North Vancouver teens have been arrested for a brutal baseball-bat assault that left a man clinging to life in hospital with a head injury. The teens, 17 and 18, were arrested separately, near their homes Friday evening.

The attack occurred early that morning when a fight broke out between the teens and two men, aged 20 and 21. The victims, both members of the Squamish Nation, were taken to hospital. One of them suffered a fractured skull and a brain hemorrhage in the bat attack.

METRO

KIMIYA SHOKOOHI/FOR METRO

▶ Carole James

## Emergency meeting postponed

B.C.'s New Democrats scuttled plans for an emergency caucus meeting yesterday that had been called to deal with a revolt in the party.

Acting caucus chairwoman Kathy Corrigan said the meeting was postponed to allow for "private discussions."

Carole James had announced the meeting Thursday, a day after a scathing letter by Vancouver MLA Jenny Kwan called for the NDP leader to step down. METRO

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

▶ About 150 Olympic volunteers, including Bet Tuason, with Canadian flag, joined grand marshal John Furlong during the seventh annual Rogers Santa Claus Parade in Vancouver yesterday.

# Santa makes early visit

### ◗ Parade gives Olympics thanks ◗ Olympic, Paralympic volunteers took part ◗ John Furlong and Mary McNeil this year's grand marshals

KIMIYA SHOKOOHI
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

About 300,000 people gathered to watch Santa Claus sleigh his way through downtown Vancouver yesterday at the seventh annual Rogers Santa Claus Parade.

"Every year it's gotten better and better," said Megan Ritter, who's been bringing her seven-year-old son to the parade since its start in 2004.

The parade's signature red and green made room for some blue as about 150 blue-jacket-clad Olympic and Paralympic volunteers took part in the march.

"It's an opportunity for the people of Vancouver to express their appreciation for a job well done," said Ryan Nickerson, the parade's spokesman, about the work of the volunteers during the Vancouver Winter Games.

Parade organizers hope the event will do more than just give thanks. Nickerson said the prime focus of this year's parade was to raise donations for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society.

"When we hit summer, that's when it'll start to show up that supplies are low," said Cheryl Prepchuk, a spokeswoman for the food bank.

With 80 per cent of year-round supplies collected in the month of December, Prepchuk said she hopes the parade will kick off the season of giving.

Donations can be made online by visiting foodbank.bc.ca.

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# Lace up— Robson Square rink reopens

## VANOC chief John Furlong says he supports councillor's motion to create a public square

The Robson Square ice rink is back in business.

The rink reopened yesterday to families and groups of young skaters, who laced up for a round at downtown Vancouver's only outdoor rink.

"We need more family places like this," said Zaheed Bakave, a Yaletown resident who brought her niece and four children to the rink for the opening. "I think it would add a lot of dimension to downtown."

Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee president John Furlong said public spaces are crucial to a city's livability.

"This is what turns a city from a place to reside in to a place to live in," Furlong said.

Vancouver Coun. Suzanne Anton has proposed a motion to create a public square — like those found in many European cities — between the art gallery and the Law Courts.

Furlong says he's in favour of that motion and that he believes Robson Square is already well on its way to becoming a gathering point.

"I think it would be a very easy place to build on," Furlong said at the rink opening.

"This area here is where people come to when they go to downtown Vancouver." KIMIYA SHOKOOHI

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

▶ Kairos Bakave, 18 months, looks for help yesterday.

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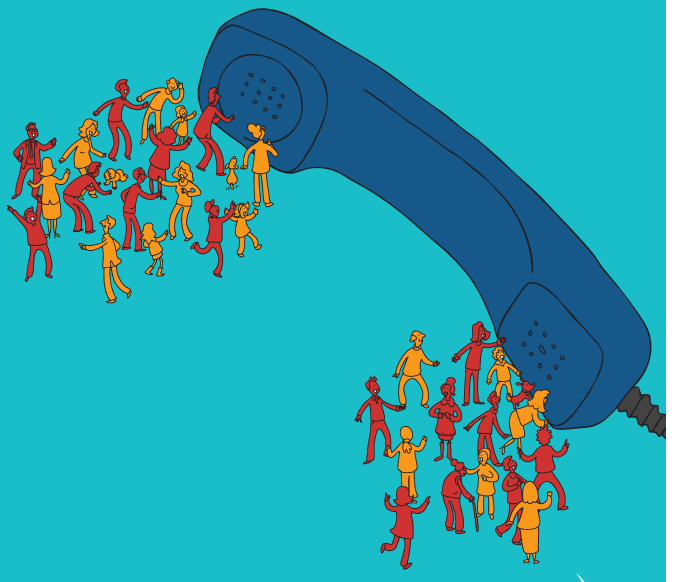

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# Saudis drop ball on terrorism funding: Docs

**Leaks say Taliban gets more funding from Gulf donors than drug trade Officials sluggish in cracking down**

WIKI LEAKS

Saudi Arabia has made "important progress" in aggressively trying to curtail the flow of funds to terrorist groups, but the oil-rich kingdom and its Gulf Arab neighbours still remain major sources of financing for militant movements like al-Qaida and the Taliban, according to leaked U.S. government documents.

The findings, detailed in a series of internal U.S. diplomatic cables spanning a period of several years, paint a stark picture of Washington's challenges in convincing key allies of the need to clamp down on terror funding, much of which is believed to stem from private donors in those nations.

But the cables, obtained and released by WikiLeaks, also offer a window into the delicate balancing act Gulf governments must perform in cracking down on extremist sympathizers while not running afoul of religious charitable duties

▶ Hillary Rodham Clinton

and casting themselves as U.S. stooges before an increasingly skeptical populace.

"While the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) takes seriously the threat of terrorism within Saudi Arabia, it has been an ongoing challenge to persuade Saudi officials to treat terrorist financing emanating from Saudi Arabia as a strategic priority," reads a December 2009 memo from Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The cable said that while the kingdom has begun to "make important progress on this front, ... donors in Saudi Arabia constitute the most significant source of funding to Sunni terrorist groups worldwide."

Saudi Arabia, the homeland of most of the Sept. 11 hijackers, has repeatedly come under fire from the U.S. for its sluggish response to cracking down on terror financing. It has also been criticized for its reluctance to confront the fiery rhetoric espoused by some of its hardline clerics which is seen as either directly or indirectly fuelling extremism.

Many of the criticisms and observations made in the U.S. documents rehash — albeit more directly — previously stated American concerns.

Similarly, officials have complained of direct donations by wealthy individuals, particularly during religious months such as Ramadan, or during the hajj. Compounding that issue has been the difficulty and reluctance to monitor charities, as well as the abundant informal money transfer networks called hawala, or worker remittances.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Seeing.** Red

▶ Skiers and snowboarders dressed as Santa ride up a skilift yesterday.

JOEL PAGE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Trading sleigh for board

**As part of the 11th annual Santa Sunday at Sunday River in Newry, Maine, participants get free lift tickets if they wear Santa hats, jackets, pants and beards and donate $10 or more to the Bethel Rotary Club's annual toy drive.**

## Troops make final combat push?

NATO and Afghan forces are on the move in western Kandahar in what could be one of the last big pushes involving Canadian troops before the combat mission ends next summer.

A large combined assault group of Canadian, American and Afghan troops are headed into a longstanding Taliban redoubt, a restive area known as the Horn of Panjwaii.

The arid patch of farmland has been fought over for years; taken, retaken several times and abandoned as coalition forces struggled to hold the region with only a few thousand soldiers.

American paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division have been clearing the region between Zangabad and Mushan since late October.

The combined force is relieving them and establishing a permanent presence by building bases and conducting regular patrols in the region.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Region's past**

**The region troops are pushing towards was the focus of a scorched-earth policy by the Soviets in the 1980s.**

▶ **Thousands** of families were forced to flee their homes, many never returned.

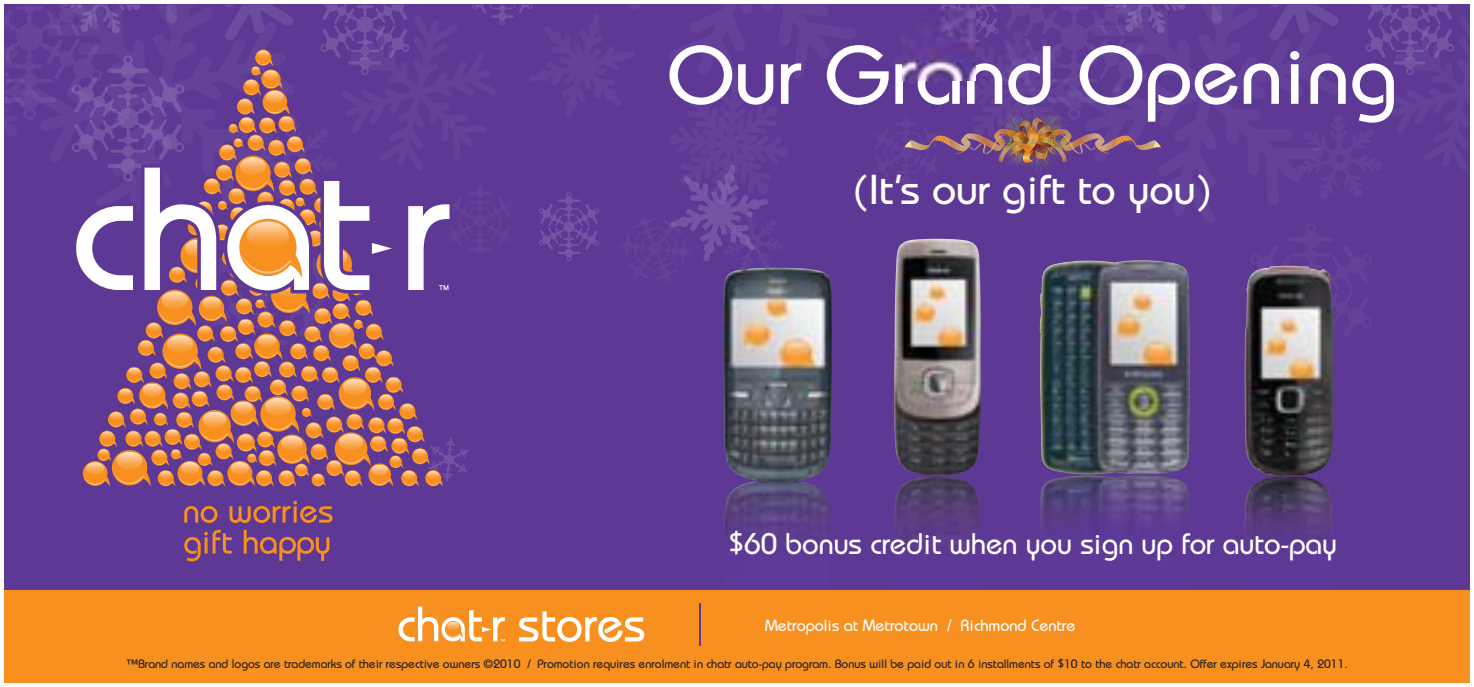
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PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

▶ Myda Egrmajer at The Sapphire Room, a bar in Peterborough where she works. Her father, Milan, was murdered in Honduras on his boat.

# Returning home

## Woman who saw father's killing in Honduras on way back to Canada ◗ Relative describes victim as vivacious, intelligent

A young woman who witnessed her father's murder onboard his boat in Central America returned home yesterday.

Myda Egrmajer's cousin Marian Hester said the 24-year-old woman was travelling from Belize to her mother's home in Ontario. Family members were gathering there to await her return, Hester said.

The small family and community are shaken, she said. "It's a little surreal."

Myda had been visiting her father Milan on his boat in Honduras when they hit bad weather on Thursday and docked at a remote lagoon called El Diamante, which is known to boaters in the area as a place to overnight. It's not clear what unfolded next, but Milan Egrmajer's body was found inside the boat by authorities on Friday.

Honduran authorities said his body had four bullet wounds to the chest and abdomen. Honduran media were reporting yesterday that Myda was hidden from view as four men robbed her father at gunpoint.

But Hester said the story of how she escaped is Myda's story alone to tell. "She is a fighter, obviously," said Hester. "So is Milan."

On a website where he was chronicling his trip, Milan said that to him, water was a magnet. "It is this magnetism that has spurned this sailing adventure," he wrote.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CYCLISTS KILLED

## Speeding car kills 8 cyclists

A speeding car plowed head-on into a group of cyclists in southern Italy yesterday, killing eight of them, officials said. The driver had been smoking marijuana, police said. Bent, mangled bikes were strewn about the scene, and the sheet-draped corpses dotted the two-lane road near Lamezia Terme, in the Calabrian toe of boot-shaped Italy where the accident occurred.

In addition to the eight cyclists killed, four people were injured: two cyclists and the driver and a young boy in the car with him, said Maria Dolores Rucci, commander of the road police in nearby Catanzaro. The ANSA news agency said the driver, who was only slightly injured, was placed under arrest on charges of multiple homicide. A police spokesman said the man, a Moroccan national, had tested positive for marijuana.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Preventing another Air India

The Harper government says it will introduce a plan this week to ensure a tragedy like the 1985 Air India bombing never happens again. Immigration Minister Jason Kenney made the announcement yesterday at a ceremony in Montreal, where ground was broken on a memorial dedicated to the victims of the worst terrorist attack in Canadian history.

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# WHAT'S WITH THIS FIREPLACE CHANNEL?

**Urban Compass**

**PAUL SULLIVAN**

**When I think I understand what's going on, something happens to make it clear I understand nothing. Like the Fireplace Channel.**

Every year, during the holiday season, Shaw dedicates one of its apparently endless supply of cable channels to a 24-7 video of wood merrily burning in a fireplace.

Sometimes the logs just crackle in the fire; sometimes Bing Crosby turns up to sing about roasting his chestnuts on an open fire. You know ... festive fireplace music.

The highlight of the "show" is when a guy's arm appears to poke the fire. You never know when it's going to happen, but when it does, fans love it.

Don't believe me. Here are the facts. The Facebook page for the Guy Who Pokes the Fire has 39,322 fans. Women phone the Fireplace Channel and try to find out who he is, as he's not wearing a wedding ring. There's something about a man who pokes the fire...

This year, the harmonious relationship between the channel and its groupies was threatened because Shaw had a bright idea — let's put the virtual fireplace on a pay-per-view channel and charge everyone 99 cents for an hour and 55 minutes, donating the take to charity. Everybody wins, right?

Wrong. Fireplace Channel fans staged an online revolt, demanding the channel be restored to its rightful place on basic cable. Shaw, hip to social media, immediately caved. Just a couple of days after the charity ploy, the fireplace and the man who pokes it are back on either channel 165 or 212 if you have HD, replacing the postcard photos in The Frame until Jan. 2.

**"What's next? The Dripping Faucet Channel? The Guy Waiting for a Bus Channel? The Nose Mining Channel?"**

Power to the people, I guess.

Shaw knows it's competing with YouTube, which has a zillion hi-def videos you can play on your 65-inch TV, so why fight it? If you have any holiday charity to spare, Shaw will still take your money on pay-per-view, but freedom of the fireplace has been restored.

So put on your stretchy pants, grab the cat and the remote and go crazy.

What's next? The Dripping Faucet Channel? The Guy Waiting for a Bus Channel? The Nose Mining Channel? OK, maybe I should stop right there.

Without the charity angle, the only good thing about the Fireplace Channel is that it's arguably easier on the environment. Although considering the electricity drawn by all that virtual crackling and poking, it's probably a wash.

You're right. I don't understand. I'm not even sure I want to.

**Cartoon**

MICHAEL DE ADDER

# Spending with confidence

**Letters & Tweets**

*We asked: Do you think the economic stimulus plan is working?*

**TORONTO.** I think the stimulus plan is working because people are spending more money than last year for Christmas. The strong currency shows recovery from the recession and it makes people spend with confidence.
**KAZUKO MATAKE**

**TORONTO.** I think the economic stimulus plan is working. Though the Canadian unemployment rate rose, it's going down compared to the past, according to data.
**YUKI MIZUBAYASHI**

**TORONTO.** According to research, Canada has been doing well and the unemployment rate is decreasing. As we can see from the TSX or unemployment rate, the economy is doing well.
**SEUNGGO CHOI**

**MEXICO CITY.** I think it is working because the unemployment rate is decreasing every month compared to other years, so I think this is happening as a result of all the stimulus that the government is providing. The only thing that I would like to know is the exact statistics on how much the stimulus spending specifically is increasing economic activity.
**ARIADNA SOLIS**

**Signs of the times**

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

**Has WikiLeaks impacted your view of politics?**

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# Metro Minute with a game symphony

Come listen as the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra perform award-winning scores from a collection of video games, from The Legend of Zelda to Halo.

PLAY! A Video Game Symphony features scores from blockbuster video games like Metal Gear Solid, Sim City 4, Super Mario Bros, Sonic the Hedgehog and the World of Warcraft.

During the performance, graphics from the games will be projected onto large screens above the orchestra. The show is directed by composer Andy Brick who has penned work for video games like the Sims 2 and Warhammer.

The show begins at 8 p.m. at the Orpheum Theatre, 601 Smithe St. Tickets are $29 to $68 and are available at vancouversymphony.ca. **METRO VANCOUVER**

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▶ PLAY! A Video Game Symphony features scores from blockbuster video games like Super Mario Bros.

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RICHARD LAM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Redoaune Al Fakir, founding director of Space Launch Canada, poses with a space suit at the HR MacMillan Space Centre in Vancouver.

# Canadian space port proposed

## Muslim astrophysicist wants facility completed by 2015 Has begun an international fundraising drive

The head of the Muhammad Institute for Space Science, dedicated to putting the Islamic world back at the forefront of scientific discovery, wants to build a space-launch facility in Canada.

Redouane Al Fakir's goal has been to return Muslims to the place of pride they held, centuries ago, as world leaders in astronomy.

But the Vancouver astrophysicist wants all Canadians to be involved in his project. His proposed commercial space port would be the first of its kind in this country — and Al Fakir says it's about time.

**500**
**Al Fakir says it would cost $500 million to complete the space port while also developing a Canadian rocket launcher.**

Its goal would be to launch missions into Earth's orbit and to other solar-system destinations like the moon, Mars and beyond.

Al Fakir is looking at two coastal sites for the facility: Tofino and Prince Rupert, which are fairly secluded locations but are accessible by road — ideal conditions for a space port.

He says he's secured $250,000 in startup money from overseas and has begun an international fundraising drive to raise the estimated $100 million it would take to build the facility.

Aside from Qatar, he hopes to work with other Islamic countries like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WIND ENERGY

## Industry at risk over tax break?

Recent growth in wind energy projects in Canada could be undermined if a big federal tax break is not renewed when it expires next spring.

After a shot in the arm for the industry last week, when Ontario announced more than 600 direct jobs would be created with the opening of two new wind turbine parts factories next year, the sector's main lobby group hopes that incentives for the industry will continue to flow.

They're concerned because the $1.48-billion federal ecoENERGY for Renewable Power program, which gives companies one cent per kilowatt hour as an incentive for renewable energy projects, is set to end in March.

The Canadian Wind Energy Association has lobbied the federal government to extend the incentive program past the March deadline.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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**Law & Order**

Academy Award-winner Jeremy Irons is dropping into Law & Order: Special Victims Unit to guest star as a sex therapist. A spokeswoman for the NBC crime drama said Friday that Irons' character runs a sex addiction clinic in the episode to be filmed later this month. It's set to air in early 2011.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**When the curtain falls:** Show biz life dim for neither rich nor famous songstress in Las Vegas

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Katy Perry performs onstage at the VH1 Divas Salute the Troops in San Diego.

# Saluting the troops

## Perry reigns as VH1 Divas pay homage to U.S. service men and women

Katy Perry loves a man in a uniform.

The pop superstar met dozens of service members while working on the special VH1 Divas Salute the Troops this weekend near San Diego.

"There was a kid who I met backstage who was rather chatty, but adorable," Perry recalled. "He was really sweet. He was 19. He had such a good heart. He said, 'Yes, ma'am' to me. 'Yes ma'am!' I was like, 'OK! Yes, sir!'"

A VH1 publicist estimated an audience of 27,000 attended the nearly three-hour taping of the concert Friday night at the Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar. The show, which aired last night, featured a bounty of what the network has dubbed divas — female or female-lead musical acts, including established stars such as Heart, Paramore and Sugarland, as well as hot newcomers Grace Potter and The Nocturnals, Keri Hilson and Nicki Minaj. But if one diva emerged supreme, it was Perry, who both opened and closed the show, and performed solo or with others on a half-dozen songs — twice that of anyone else in the line-up.

"I really had to live up to the definition of a 'diva' in all senses of the word," Perry joked.

**"I really had to live up to the definition of a 'diva' in all senses of the word. So I had to be very difficult today, and late."**
KATY PERRY

"So I had to be very difficult today, and late," she continued, adding that she was really neither.

Perry went on to reference Beyoncé's song Diva, then proceeded to lose the lyric.

"Blaaah! Obviously I'm not Beyoncé," Perry laughed. "She is the true diva."

Onstage, Perry pulled out the stops — and the costumes — with the opening number featuring Perry, Hilson and Sugarland's Jennifer Nettles in WAC uniforms for a cover of The Andrews Sisters' '40s classic Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy. Perry closed the show with her current smash Firework, which concluded, appropriately, with a fireworks display.

For that finale, Perry wore a cherry-red beaded gown with thigh-high slit that looked as if it was borrowed from Jessica Rabbit's closet. "You know me, I love vintage," Perry explained. "I love pin-up girls."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Happy couple**

**Perry, 26, and her new husband, actor Russell Brand, will be spending their first holiday season together as husband and wife.**

- **Quoted:** "What do I want for Christmas? Well, I think what is appropriate now is, I hope the troops come home very safely," Perry replied.
- **Her message to troops:** "Keep your Skype and your iChat on because I know some of them are away from all their family and wives. I can understand that feeling every once in awhile because I am on the battlefield myself, but I am just singing pop songs."

# Accident cancels Bieber appearance

## Contestant injured on popular German TV show

Canadian teen idol Justin Bieber missed an appearance on one of Germany's top rated television shows as it was cut short by a stunt that went terribly wrong.

Broadcaster ZDF said the live broadcast of Wetten Dass (Bet it...?) game show had to be cancelled Saturday after contestant Samuel Koch was severely injured while trying to jump over a moving car driven by his father with the help of special shoes featuring a suspension system.

The 16-year-old Bieber later said on his Twitter account: "Please pray for Samuel Koch & his family as we wait and hope for his health and safety." The singer added on Twitter he felt sorry for not performing in Germany, but "some things are more important than putting on a show. We will be back I promise."

▶ Justin Bieber in Paris last week.

Wetten Dass, which has been on TV for almost 30 years, is one of the country's most successful shows.

The 23-year-old Koch suffered multiple back injuries and fractures, underwent surgery Sunday, and his condition was no longer life threatening, according to Duesseldorf hospital.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Celebrity Rehab begins another intense season

Former supermodel Janice Dickinson has a brush with death as she suffers from withdrawal syndrome in a "very intense" new season of Celebrity Rehab, says addiction specialist Dr. Drew Pinsky.

"She's the one who almost dies in this treatment and scared the hell out of my staff," Pinsky said in a phone interview ahead of last night's Season 4 debut on MuchMore.

"We got her through it and she's doing fantastic now. She is deeply involved in her treatment."

Celebrity Rehab, which airs on VH1 in the U.S., follows various entertainment personalities as they check in to California's Pasadena Recovery Centre for three weeks to receive treatment and counselling for various addictions.

Among them is Rachel Uchitel, the former nightclub hostess who has been linked to golfer Tiger Woods.

"I had hit rock bottom," Uchitel, 35, said in a phone interview from Las Vegas this week. "I needed help and I didn't know what was wrong with me.

"But being in rehab, I came to understand that there was a name for the addiction that I was suffering.... I learned that I was a love addict."

Pinsky says this season was "a very intense course of treatment" because the patients walked in with very low motivation to get better. "This group was one I had to really drag into treatment," said the medical doctor, who's hosted the radio program Loveline since 1984.

"But they did come along. A lot of them are doing extremely well. I never would have predicted it from where they started."

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# Film Eclipses Slade's resumé

## Master of the disturbing drama takes a lighter turn with Twilight
## Eclipse DVD now on shelves

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DAVE HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ From left to right, Alex Meraz, Booboo Stewart, Nikki Reed, David Slade, Kellan Lutz, Ashley Greene and Xavier Samuel attend the gala premiere of The Twilight Saga: Eclipse last July.

British director David Slade has two brooding thrillers under his belt in Hard Candy and 30 Days Of Night that never would have suggested his next feature would be the latest entry in the bubblegum teen romance series Twilight.

For Slade, Eclipse was such a gear change from his previous work that he couldn't resist.

"It's not very often that someone is going to offer a romantic fantasy to a director who has done a thriller in which a woman takes revenge on a pedophile and another in which literal monsters take nihilism to a social order," Slade told Metro.

"I had to take it because doing different things is how we learn and grow. But yeah, it's an odd one. I wouldn't have hired me."

Though Slade embraced the lovingly cheesy romance that has turned teenage girls and, mysteriously, middle-aged women into giggling Twilight devotees, the director was also the first to follow through on the horror aspects of the series that involves vampires and werewolves in addition to shirtless romantic pining.

"The horror aspects were all there in the script and I just followed through on them with my instincts," explained Slade. "If anything the producers actually started saying, 'maybe you should take this a bit further,' but I wasn't making Hard Candy. I was definitely making Eclipse. It was all about tone and tension. We thought we were better served by that rather than having people ripped in half."

The filmmaker may have added a dark edge to Eclipse that fans appreciated, but Slade is quick to acknowledge that the overall strength of the film still lies in the source material.

"The thing is that the story is great so there wasn't really any need to deviate that much from it anyways," admitted Slade. "In terms of dialing up the tension and improving the aesthetic of the special effects, any director coming in would have done the same."

### Director's dish

**David Slade on gently mocking Twilight with Eclipse**

▶ "I think having written the first two movies Melissa Rosenberg felt at this point that she had the liberty to poke fun at certain things in the franchise and I applauded it. The actors did too. Nobody was offended. The series has matured enough for everyone to have a good laugh at the fact that Taylor doesn't have a shirt on or whatever it may be. There were certain other things that I felt we could make fun of, but we never really had the chance."

# GLAAD making inroads

## Report shows gay, bisexual characters on TV being better represented

GLAAD is happy to be turning 25 years old.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation celebrated its anniversary Friday night with a swanky cocktail party at the Harmony Gold Theatre in Los Angeles. Chaz Bono, Jean Smart, Amber Heard and Ed Begley Jr. were among the celebrity attendees who toasted the group, which focuses on how lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender folks are presented in the media.

"We've made great progress in these media capitols," said Jarrett Barrios, president of GLAAD. "Beyond Hollywood, beyond New York, between these blue states, right at this nation's red centre, we have miles to go. How far do we still have to go to ensure that an environment of respect exists for all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people?"

**"Beyond Hollywood, beyond New York, between these blue states, right at this nation's red centre, we have miles to go. How far do we still have to go to ensure that an environment of respect exists for all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people?"**
**JARRETT BARRIOS, PRESIDENT OF GLAAD**

GLAAD was first formed in 1985 in New York to protest the New York Post's coverage of AIDS.

The organization went on to push for several changes throughout the media, such as the inclusion of a same-sex couple on the viewer-voted wedding contest on NBC's Today show and modifications to how gays are referred to in The Associated Press Stylebook.

The group now annually holds the GLAAD Media Awards, which actor Steven Weber called the "gayer Oscars," and releases the Where We Are on TV report, which tracks LGBT characters on network shows.

This year's report found that there were 23 gay and bisexual characters on scripted network TV out of a total of 600, up 3 per cent from last season's shows.

"The steady stream of negative portrayals and censorship of gay and lesbian lives on film and in television has given way to much more realistic and life-affirming depictions, such as this year's The Kids Are All Right and TV's Glee," said Richard Jennings, a former president of GLAAD who received the first-ever Founders' Award at the event this year.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

CHRIS PIZZELLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Chaz Bono poses at the premiere of the film Burlesque in Los Angeles.

# No plans to tie the knot: Depp

**Actor doesn't foresee marriage for him and Vanessa Paradis, partner of 12 years But he says he would do the ceremony if she wanted**

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Johnny Depp and Vanessa Paradis on the red carpet.

After 12 years together and having two children, Johnny Depp says he and Vanessa Paradis are still perfectly happy and have no plans to tie the knot.

"I never found myself needing that piece of paper," he tells Extra.

"Marriage is really from soul to soul, heart to heart. You don't need somebody to say, 'OK, you're married.'"

And while he says he'd do the ceremony at the drop of a hat if Paradis wanted, he'd be too "scared of ruining her last name. She's got such a good last name."

METRO

## Stars' Twitter 'deaths' get cool reception

Alicia Keys' bid to have notable Twitter users like Lady Gaga, Ryan Seacrest and Kim Kardashian "die" to raise money and awareness for World AIDS Day hasn't worked out as hoped, according to Hollyscoop.

The celebrities vowed to go silent on the social-networking site until $1 million had been raised for Keys' charity, Keep a Child Alive, but by the end of the week they'd reportedly only raised a little more than $200,000. METRO

## Transformers star reportedly booted off plane

Josh Duhamel was reportedly escorted off a plane in New York over the weekend when he refused to turn off his BlackBerry before takeoff, according to TMZ.

A passenger from the flight says the Transformers star was "very rude" and "taunting the attendant" who asked him to co-operate.

The plane had to return to the gate so airline representatives could remove him. Duhamel's reps say, "He's sorry." METRO

### Celebrity tweets

**Steve Martin [@Steve MartinToGo]** I am splitting up with Eva Longoria.

**Joel McHale [@joel mchale]** Although he has yet to join Twitter, you can still contact Chevy Chase via the Ellsworth County

**Neil Patrick Harris [@Actually NPH]** I just got a call from the People's Choice people. I'm in dead last place. Fewer vote than the movie Salt...

**Paris Hilton [@paris hilton]** Love the Life You Live.

Britney Spears

# More audio drama for Britney

**Ex-husband Jason Alexander claims to have audio recording of pop singer talking about drug use**

Britney Spears' ex-husband Jason Alexander has another audio recording that purports to feature the pop singer talking about smoking marijuana, according to Radar Online.

"You know I got the best pot in California if you really want to smoke," Spears reportedly tells Alexander on the recording

Spears is already fighting reports about an earlier recording of Alexander's that he says features Spears admitting current boyfriend Jason Trawick is abusive

METRO

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**Scent of generosity**

Looking for a gift that will leave you smelling, and feeling, good?

The 7 Virtues' Noble Rose of Afghanistan and Afghanistan Orange Blossom are made using orange blossom and rose crops from Afghanistan — offering local farmers an alternative crop to poppies. METRO

**Toms Shoes gives away a million shoes; takes aim at combating diseases**

A youngster's eager pleas for the trendiest toys this time of year might be best followed by the question, 'What about others?'

ISTOCK

No matter how a family chooses to honour the season, it is an optimal time to teach young people the value of giving back.

# Help them give a gift that keeps giving

JESSICA LEWIS
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

This holiday season many families are taking part in charitable gift giving to countries in need. Whether it's donating an animal to another family on the other side of the world to provide food or for breeding, or materials that might help to fund an education for a child, the act is not only helpful to the one who receives it, but to who gives it as well. The holidays serve as the perfect time to teach children about giving.

"Our kids learn from what we do, so a lot of it is just modeling it and making it part of our family culture," says Alyson Shafer, a parenting expert, author and host of The Parenting Show.

**"Our kids learn from what we do, so a lot of it is making it part of our family culture."** PARENTING EXPERT ALYSON SHAFER ON GIVING BACK

Shafer suggests that parents might also introduce the gift of giving if they're worrying about their children's selfishness. "When kids are saying 'I want a Wii! I want a Nintendo! I want a bike!' Parents might like to say, 'What about others?'"

Shafer donates to charities in her children's names every year, looking for something fun and easy for them to understand. Last year, she donated chickens, and a card under her Christmas tree was enough to make her children happy for the cause. Shafer also asks that she has a gift donated in her name from them.

If you're looking to engage your family in charitable gift giving this month, there are plenty of outlets.

Free the Children, Canada's Most Meaningful Gifts, Gifts That Matter, Unicef, Heifer, Oxfam and Plan Canada are some that offer animals, healthcare, education and shelter. More targeted organizations include WaterCan's Gifts of Water, the David Suzuki Foundation and World Wildlife Fund.

Plan Canada did a survey of 1,000 Canadians in October and November, finding that 89 per cent of those participants believe that it's important for children to learn to help others and 59 per cent use the holidays as a time to acknowledge such.

"When you think about the ethical giving side, giving a gift that has a story behind it has a narrative that connects us with somebody on the other side of the planet in a meaningful way," says Rosemary McCarney, CEO and president of Plan Canada.

"I think that those are great opportunities for parents and children to have a very different conversation... It allows for much richer conversation about poverty and inequalities and social justice than you can have if you're talking about another pair of slippers or a hockey stick."

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# Not fast, but very easy

## This simple pulled pork recipe has just three ingredients

LARRY CROWE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Pulled pork: Cider adds the flavour.

This dish started as a three-ingredient slow cooker recipe. And I completely messed it up.

I'd read another recipe that called for combining pork butt, a bottle of cola and a bottle of barbecue sauce in the slow cooker, then walking away.

Seemed interesting, though the cola idea made me want to gag (and yes, I know lots of people cook with cola).

I tried it, substituting a bottle of hard cider for the cola. It was great, except that after six hours in the slow cooker the sauce was still way too liquidy. I ended up dumping the whole thing into a saucepan and boiling it until the sauce was reduced and thick.

That made me wonder why I bothered with the slow cooker at all. Why not just do the whole thing on the stovetop? It would be much faster, there would be less cleanup and it would solve my liquid issues.

To make this new approach work, I needed to change the cut of pork, but boneless (country-style) ribs worked just fine. And to make a meal of it, I tried the resulting quick-cook cider-barbecue pulled pork over mashed potatoes. It was amazing. Best yet, it was incredibly simple.

Though this recipe calls for hard cider (sold alongside beer), sweet cider could be substituted. And while it isn't as quick as most weeknight recipes, it is almost entirely hands off.

**Cider-Barbecue Pulled Pork Over Mashed Potatoes**

### Ingredients:

**Pulled Pork**
- 1 kg (2 lb) boneless (country-style) pork ribs
- 500 ml (2 cups) hard cider (1 pint)
- 1 bottle (510 g/18 oz) barbecue sauce

**Mashed Potatoes**
- 1.15 kg (2 1/2 lb) russet potatoes, peeled and quartered
- 90 ml (6 tbsp) butter
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) whole milk
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) chopped fresh parsley
- Salt and ground black pepper, to taste

### Preparation:

1. In a large saucepan over medium-high, combine ribs, cider and barbecue sauce. Stir well, then bring to a boil. Reduce heat to maintain a steady simmer. Cook for 1 hour to 1 1/4 hours or until the pork is very tender and the liquid is reduced and thick.

2. After 45 minutes, place potatoes in a medium saucepan. Add enough cold water to cover, then bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Cook until potatoes are tender. Drain potatoes and return to pot. Add butter and milk, then mash. Mix in parsley, then season with salt and pepper. Cover and set aside.

3. Use 2 forks to shred and pull apart pork, mixing it with sauce. Serve pork over mashed potatoes.

**Nutrition information per serving (values are rounded to the nearest whole number): 536 calories; 185 calories from fat (35 per cent of total calories); 21 g fat (11 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 144 mg cholesterol; 46 g carbohydrate; 37 g protein; 2 g fibre; 1,051 mg sodium.**

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# Use your imagination

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Savoury Scones can be made ahead, ready to pop in the oven for your guests.

**With these savoury scones, there is no limit to the toppings and fillings you can add**

Walnuts and thyme add a distinctive holiday flavour to these fluffy, buttery scones. The dough can be prepared a day ahead and kept in the refrigerator.

All you have to do is pop them in the oven when your guests arrive and serve with your favourite fillings or toppings.

**Savoury Scones**

## Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 190 C (375 F). In a large bowl, whisk together flour, walnuts, sugar, baking powder, salt, thyme and pepper.
2. Using a coarse cheese grater, grate frozen butter directly into dry ingredients, stirring occasionally to prevent butter from sticking together.
3. Pour milk into mixture and stir gently with a wooden spoon until mixture just comes together to form dough. Turn dough over a few times to gather up any remaining bits of flour. Dough should not be sticky. If it is, add a bit more flour.
4. Transfer dough to a floured cutting board and divide into 4 equal pieces. Working quickly, using your hands, shape each piece into a round flat disk, about 2 cm (3/4 inch) thick. Cut each disk into 8 even-sized wedges. Arrange on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Brush tops with milk. Sprinkle with finely chopped walnuts.
5. Bake for 12 minutes or until golden brown. Transfer to a wire rack and let cool slightly. Gently pull tops off the scones or cut horizontally. Fill with desired fillings or top each half with desired toppings. Makes 32 scones.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Ingredients:

- 500 ml (2 cups) all-purpose flour (approx)
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) walnuts, finely chopped
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) granulated sugar
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) baking powder
- 5 ml (1 tsp) salt
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) dried thyme
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) ground black pepper
- 125 g (1/4 lb) frozen butter (1 stick)
- 250 ml (1 cup) whole milk
- Finely chopped walnuts, for garnish

## Filling/Topping Ideas:

**Cranberry and Brie**
Fill or top scones with a dollop of cranberry sauce, thinly sliced brie and fresh watercress or baby arugula.

**Smoked Salmon and Cream Cheese**
Fill scones with room-temperature cream cheese, finely chopped red onion or finely chopped cherry tomato, thinly sliced smoked salmon and a sprig of fresh dill.

**Apple, Sage and Goat Cheese Filling**
Fill or top scones with thinly sliced green apple (skin on, dipped in lemon juice to prevent browning), softened goat cheese and a fresh sage leaf.


# COOK UP DINNER WITH A SIDE OF ENERGY SAVINGS

When you cook delicious meals, you can still get the most out of all your flavours, while trying to use the least amount of energy. In fact, whether it's at our home, at our business, or even when commuting in between those two, we're keen conservationists. That's why we joined Team Power Smart and we invite you to do the same.

It's easy to do our part. Plus most of all, it's amazing how all the small changes we make... really add up. From our kitchen to yours, we hope you enjoy this recipe from our new cookbook—and discover how tasty conserving energy can be!

Vikram Vij and Meeru Dhalwala
Team Power Smart Members and Owners
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# CHICKEN, TOMATO AND GREEN BEAN CURRY

Serves 6–8 / **Prep and Cooking time:** 45 minutes

## INGREDIENTS

½ cup cooking oil
2 cups chopped red onion (1 large)
2 Tbsp chopped garlic (6 medium cloves)
3 cups chopped tomatoes (6 medium)
1 tsp turmeric
1 ½ Tbsp ground cumin
1 ½ Tbsp mild Mexican chili powder
1 Tbsp salt
1 tsp ground cayenne pepper (optional)
2 ½ lbs skinless and boneless chicken thighs, cut in 1-inch strips
½ cup water
1 lb green beans, trimmed and cut in ½-inch pieces

## COOKING METHOD

We cook mostly with chicken thighs at home because the organic thighs are cheaper and way juicier than the breast meat. Although this recipe calls for boneless thigh meat, you can just as easily use bone-in thigh (just make sure it's enough meat for six servings and add an extra cup of water so that you can get a nice chicken broth in your curry). We add fresh green beans for their flavour, colour and nutritional value, but you can use frozen beans if you're pressed for time. Remember, too, that the juicier and sweeter the tomato, the more flavour this curry will have. Serve this dish with rice, couscous, pita bread, naan or even boiled potatoes.

In a large, heavy-bottomed pan, heat oil on medium-high for 1 minute. Add onion and sauté for about 8 minutes, or until light golden on the edges. (Don't overcook the red onion, as it is meant to give a sweeter taste to this curry.) Add garlic and sauté for 2 to 3 minutes, then add tomatoes and stir well. Add turmeric, cumin, chili powder, salt and cayenne and sauté for 5 minutes. Stir in chicken, pour in water and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium, cover and cook for 10 minutes, or until chicken is cooked (juices run clear when it is poked with a knife). Remove the lid carefully and stir in green beans. Cook, uncovered, for 5 minutes, or until beans are just slightly crunchy.

A10-452b

From the book *Vij's at Home—Relax, Honey: The Warmth and Ease of Indian Cooking* © 2010, by Meeru Dhalwala and Vikram Vij. Published by Douglas and McIntyre an imprint of D&M Publishers Inc. Photographs by John Sherlock. Reprinted with permission of the publisher.

# Halt climate change with the click of a mouse

**Computer gamers take on a new battle: saving Earth from climate change Fate of the World leaves players 200 years to save or wreck the planet**

JAMES WILKINSON

The eco-conscious game is based on scientific data from NASA and the United Nations.

In most video games, "saving the Earth" means fighting off an alien invasion. But Fate of the World, the upcoming eco-conscious game from UK developers Red Redemption, has other ideas.

In this new strategy game, players are given 200 years to stop severe global warming by any means, from alternative energy sources to making policy decisions to destroying countries.

Game director Matt Miles Griffiths warns of drastic consequences: "Computer gamers might think that wiping out the U.S. would solve some problems, but the loss of food production alone will send the world's economy into a tailspin. And you run the risk of being tried as a war criminal…"

Based on scientific data, the PC game – to be released February 2011 – shows how the world's economic, environmental and political problems are interlinked. But it's not a dry textbook. Here are three crazy yet possible scenarios:

### Melt the world

Microscopic nano-robots might be cute, but take care they don't replicate to make "red goo," which breaks down everything it touches at a molecular level, then spreads and spreads...

### Relive The Terminator

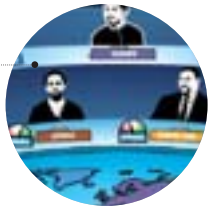
"AI can lead to machines that despise humanity," Griffiths says. But there's a bright side: "Fusion-powered Terminators are actually quite environmentally friendly."

### Freeze the Earth

"You can fire particles into the atmosphere to reduce the effect of the sun," explains creative director Ian Roberts. "But if you go too far you can create a new ice age."

## MORE ECO-FRIENDLY GAMES

### CLIMATE CHALLENGE



- Red Redemption's predecessor to Fate of the World, this BBC-hosted game asks players to balance ecological pressures, financial realities and public popularity. Play it at www.goo.gl/mYILK

### GREENCITY

- U.S. schools can use this adapted version of the SimCity Societies video game to teach six- to 12-year-olds about alternative energy sources. No word on if kids can unleash SimCity's classic monsters on their towns.

### SMARTGAUGE

- Ford's EcoGuide screens add a gaming element to real-life driving: the more efficient you are with energy, the more healthy the digitized vines on your display become.

### FLOWER

- Is climate change stressing you out? Flower might be the answer. This supremely relaxing PS3 game lets you take control of the wind itself as it blows petals through a verdant landscape.

# NUTS FOR SOAP

**Queen of Green**

**LINDSAY COULTER**

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO QUEENOFGREEN@METRONEWS.CA
DAVIDSUZUKI.ORG/BLOGS/QUEEN-OF-GREEN

**Question: What's the deal with soap nuts? I love that I can avoid plastic packaging by using them, but what are they actually made of? Are they natural and biodegradable? Or are they just condensed detergent?**
**Julie from Calgary, Alberta**

Soap nuts are a natural, biodegradable and petroleum-free laundry soap alternative. They grow on trees in Nepal and India, but they're not nuts; they're actually a fruit. You might also see them sold as soapberries. The tree itself is from the genus Sapindus. (Think back to biology class.)

Soap nuts contain large amounts of saponins in their shells, which are a natural surfactant. Surfactants are compounds that lower the surface tension of a liquid, and so can be used as detergents or foaming agents. You can find soap nuts in many health food stores, organic grocers or online. All you do is add four or five of them, in a small cloth bag, to a load of dirty laundry. You can reuse that pouch of soap nuts for a few loads.

My favourite solution for eco-friendly laundry soap is making my own liquid version from borax, washing soda and soap granules.

See my recipe and complete do-it-yourself video at davidsuzuki.org. It only takes about 20 minutes to make a batch that will last you about a month and cost only a dollar a litre.

I prefer the liquid recipe to powdered versions because it works well in cold water, saving even more money on utility bills.

Another tip is to add about ½ a cup of baking soda to boost your whites instead of chlorine bleach. Don't think you have the DIY gene in you?

David Suzuki Foundation

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# Don't axe the office party

## Experts say companies should honour staff at holidays, not cancel festivities — despite tough times

▶ Companies can scale back on parties while still retaining the spirit of the event.

The Royal Family may be toasting the impending nuptials of Prince William and Kate Middleton, but it's decidedly less festive for Buckingham Palace staffers heading into the holidays.

The Queen decided to cancel the annual Christmas fete because of "difficult financial circumstances" facing the nation.

It's been a similar story for some companies on this side of the Atlantic that either scaled back or axed holiday parties in recent years.

Pam McCarthy, owner of Calgary-based Five Star Events, said those who cancelled their parties in 2009 either aren't having one this year or are forging ahead on a smaller scale.

"Instead of having a full-blown party, they'll have a cocktail hour after work just for the staff only, that kind of thing," she said. "They'll bring in hors d'oeuvres and not have a big dinner for the staff plus the guests."

Tiff Daniels is director of sales with Canadian Outback Adventures & Events in Vancouver. The company designs and produces team-building initiatives and learning events.

Daniels recalled that in 2008, some companies cancelled events even though they'd paid in full because they were part of a larger organization that didn't want one division having a party while others hadn't booked anything — and now couldn't have one.

In the past, a national company may have flown in people from satellite offices. Daniels said that now, to save money on flights and hotels, businesses will host smaller celebrations or meetings in each major city centre.

"I think people realize after not doing any team-building events, or meetings or incentives for a good year or so, that that was affecting morale at various companies."

Although the country is no longer in the grip of a recession, it hasn't been an easy year for some companies, and hiring isn't back to what it was, said Workopolis content manager Peter Harris.

"A lot of companies are still feeling like now is not the time to throw a big, lavish party, but it is important for employee morale that something does happen. That's my theory."

A recent online poll conducted by Workopolis between Nov. 26 and Dec. 1 asked respondents whether it was important to them that their company hold a holiday party. Among more than 2,400 people, 71 per cent thought it was important or somewhat important that businesses hold a festive event.

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22088_Set4-Ver1 YVR v2

# IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO START ALL OVER AGAIN

**TurningPoint**

**TERESA KRUZE**
TURNINGPOINTMEDIA.CA

Renee Barda gave up a promising singing career to get married.

Now in the second act of her life Renee is proving it's never too late to start over again.

Her talent was noticed at a young age but on the eve of an important audition at Covent Garden in London, England, Renee decided to give up her career, get married and start a family.

Once she made her decision, Renee silenced her beautiful voice and didn't sing a note for 30 years.

In 2003, Renee found herself at another crossroads in life. After a long illness her husband had passed away and her sons were now starting families of their own.

"Whatever happened to your voice?" someone asked her. "You never did anything with it."

The next day Renee stepped into the shower and as the water coursed down her face, she began to sing.

Renee sang of lost love and of life and family. She started to cry. Her voice had not let her down; it had been there all along, just waiting for her to bring it back to life.

Renee made a triumphant return to the stage. "When I finished, the whole audience stood up and many were yelling, 'Bravo.'" Renee now has a new purpose in life.

"I have a big vision to inspire the world with my voice and my story. If I can

RICHARD FREEDMAN

reach people who have given up, I want to tell them to step back into it with everything they've got. Just go out there and do it. It doesn't matter what age you are."

Follow Renee's lead and dust off that old passion. Make it a turning point for you.

# Gay, bisexual students bullied at school: Study

David Jason was in Grade 4 when the bullying began.

His self-described feminine mannerisms and "high, squeaky" voice attracted the attention of his classmates who began to ask him why he was gay.

By Grade 6, those classmates had graduated to hurling homophobic slurs, with "faggot" being the most common.

The next two years saw Jason's enthusiasm for academics wane under the stress of the escalating verbal taunts and occasional physical harassment from his peers.

He transferred to a school well outside his Toronto neighbourhood in the hope of getting a fresh start, but encountered only new tormentors and staff who turned a blind eye when he was heckled or shoved into lockers.

When a vice-principal urged him to transfer to the Triangle Program, a Toronto high school catering solely to lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and transgendered youth, he was apathetic.

But the move proved a turning point for Jason, who credits the school for restoring his confidence and helping him accept his bisexuality.

New research suggests Jason's experience is far from unique. A study from gay rights activist organization Egale Canada and the University of Winnipeg found gay and straight students alike witnessed similar bullying in their high schools on a daily basis.

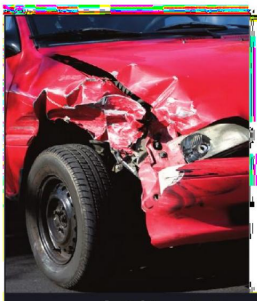
ISTOCK

▶ Independent groups are trying to combat homophobia.

The study, which surveyed 3,600 secondary school students across Canada, found nearly half of respondents reported hearing homophobic slurs on a daily basis.

Of the 14 per cent of students who identified as LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or queer), two-thirds said they did not feel safe in their school environment and 51 per cent said they had been verbally harassed over their sexual orientation. More than a fifth of LGBTQ respondents said they had been physically bullied.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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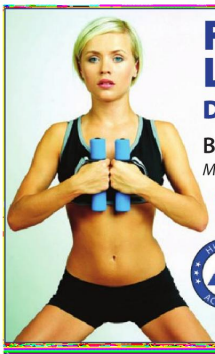
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4 sports

**Golf news**

U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell capped off his greatest year by putting together the greatest comeback ever against Tiger Woods in the Chevron World Challenge. McDowell's victory ensured that Woods, pictured, ended a calendar year without winning.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Blues halt Canucks' winning streak

**Steen scores twice, including game-winner for St. Louis**

| 3 | 2 |
|---|---|
| BLUES | CANUCKS |

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Alex Steen of the Blues celebrates his goal past Canucks netminder Roberto Luongo in the third period last night.

Alex Steen scored twice, including the winner last night, as the St. Louis Blues snapped a five-game losing streak with a 3-2 victory over the Vancouver Canucks.

Steen gave the Blues their third lead of the game at 6:11 of the final period when he stole the puck off Vancouver defenceman Christian Ehrhoff after a faceoff in the Canuck zone.

The Blues centre stepped around Alex Edler and whipped a backhand behind Canuck goalie Roberto Luongo for his seventh goal of the season and third in three games.

Matt D'Agostini also scored for the Blues while Jannik Hansen and Kevin Bieksa had the Canucks' goals.

St. Louis improved to 13-9-4 with the victory and vacated the Central Division cellar.

The Canucks lost for the first time in five games to fall to 14-8-3 but remained atop the Northwest Division, two points ahead of idle Colorado.

The teams were tied 2-2 entering the third period of the scrambly game after Edler nearly gave Vancouver the lead when his power-play blast hit the post.

The opportunistic Steen opened the scoring just after the Blues killed an early first-period penalty.

He was first to D'Agostini's rebound and beat Luongo, making an eighth consecutive start, with a wrist shot under his right arm.

Hansen tied the game after Vancouver defenceman Keith Ballard drifted a point shot toward the St. Louis net. The puck hit Canuck Jeff Tambellini in front of Blues netminder Jaroslav Halak and Hansen scored on an easy backhand.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# NHL

## EASTERN CONFERENCE

| | GP | W | L | OTL | SL | GF | GA | Pts | Home | Away | Last 10 | Strk |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| d-Pittsburgh | 28 | 18 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 89 | 66 | 38 | 8-5-1-0 | 10-3-1-0 | 9-0-1-0 | W9 |
| d-Washington | 28 | 18 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 92 | 74 | 38 | 12-2-0-1 | 6-6-1-0 | 5-4-0-1 | L2 |
| d-Montreal | 27 | 17 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 71 | 53 | 36 | 10-4-2-0 | 7-4-0-0 | 6-3-1-0 | W2 |
| Philadelphia | 28 | 17 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 95 | 69 | 38 | 10-5-0-1 | 7-2-2-1 | 5-3-0-2 | W2 |
| Tampa Bay | 27 | 15 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 84 | 94 | 33 | 7-2-1-1 | 8-7-1-0 | 7-2-0-1 | W1 |
| NY Rangers | 29 | 16 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 83 | 77 | 33 | 6-8-1-0 | 10-4-0-0 | 6-4-0-0 | L1 |
| Boston | 25 | 14 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 72 | 50 | 31 | 5-5-0-2 | 9-3-0-1 | 5-3-0-2 | L1 |
| Atlanta | 27 | 14 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 88 | 81 | 31 | 8-5-0-1 | 6-5-1-1 | 7-3-0-0 | W1 |
| Ottawa | 28 | 12 | 14 | 1 | 1 | 61 | 81 | 26 | 7-7-0-1 | 5-7-1-0 | 3-6-0-1 | W1 |
| Carolina | 26 | 11 | 12 | 0 | 3 | 75 | 84 | 25 | 6-5-0-1 | 5-7-0-2 | 3-4-0-3 | L1 |
| Buffalo | 27 | 11 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 68 | 73 | 25 | 5-8-1-0 | 6-5-1-0 | 6-4-0-0 | W2 |
| Florida | 25 | 11 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 64 | 66 | 22 | 5-5-0-0 | 6-9-0-0 | 4-6-0-0 | W1 |
| Toronto | 25 | 9 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 54 | 72 | 22 | 7-5-2-1 | 2-7-0-1 | 4-5-1-0 | W1 |
| New Jersey | 26 | 8 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 49 | 79 | 18 | 4-6-1-1 | 4-10-0-0 | 4-6-0-0 | L2 |
| NY Islanders | 25 | 5 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 56 | 86 | 15 | 3-6-1-1 | 2-9-2-1 | 1-7-1-1 | L3 |

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

| | GP | W | L | OTL | SL | GF | GA | Pts | Home | Away | Last 10 | Strk |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| d-Detroit | 24 | 17 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 84 | 62 | 37 | 10-1-1-1 | 7-3-1-0 | 7-1-2-0 | L1 |
| d-Dallas | 25 | 16 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 74 | 66 | 33 | 10-3-0-1 | 6-5-0-0 | 8-1-0-1 | W6 |
| d-Vancouver | 25 | 14 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 80 | 64 | 31 | 8-3-0-1 | 6-5-1-1 | 5-4-1-0 | L1 |
| Chicago | 29 | 15 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 90 | 84 | 32 | 7-8-0-0 | 8-4-1-1 | 7-3-0-0 | W1 |
| Phoenix | 26 | 13 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 74 | 72 | 31 | 5-3-2-2 | 8-4-2-0 | 7-2-0-1 | W1 |
| Los Angeles | 25 | 15 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 69 | 62 | 30 | 10-2-0-0 | 5-8-0-0 | 3-7-0-0 | W2 |
| St. Louis | 26 | 13 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 67 | 72 | 30 | 8-2-0-1 | 5-7-2-1 | 4-5-1-0 | W1 |
| Columbus | 25 | 14 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 67 | 69 | 29 | 6-7-0-1 | 8-3-0-0 | 5-4-0-1 | L5 |
| Nashville | 25 | 12 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 63 | 65 | 29 | 5-1-3-2 | 7-7-0-0 | 5-3-0-2 | W3 |
| Colorado | 26 | 13 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 91 | 82 | 29 | 7-4-1-0 | 5-6-2-0 | 4-4-2-0 | L3 |
| Anaheim | 29 | 13 | 13 | 2 | 1 | 71 | 87 | 29 | 9-6-0-1 | 4-7-2-0 | 3-6-1-0 | L2 |
| San Jose | 25 | 12 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 73 | 71 | 28 | 7-4-2-0 | 5-5-2-0 | 4-4-2-0 | L1 |
| Minnesota | 26 | 11 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 63 | 76 | 26 | 7-6-0-2 | 4-5-1-1 | 3-5-1-1 | L5 |
| Edmonton | 26 | 10 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 70 | 93 | 24 | 4-6-0-1 | 6-6-1-2 | 6-3-0-1 | W4 |
| Calgary | 27 | 11 | 14 | 1 | 1 | 74 | 82 | 24 | 6-6-0-0 | 5-8-1-1 | 4-4-1-1 | L1 |

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

**Yesterday's results**
Philadelphia 3 N.Y. Islanders 2
Ottawa 3 N.Y. Rangers 1
Chicago 4 Calgary 2
Phoenix 3 Anaheim 0
St. Louis 3 Vancouver 2
**Saturday's results**
Edmonton 2 St. Louis 1 (OT)
Montreal 3 San Jose 1
Toronto 3 Boston 2 (SO)
Buffalo 1 Ottawa 0 (SO)
Atlanta 3 Washington 1
Dallas 4 Minnesota 3 (OT)
Florida 2 Phoenix 1 (SO)
Los Angeles 3 Detroit 2 (OT)
Nashville 5 Carolina 2
Philadelphia 5 New Jersey 3
Pittsburgh 7 Columbus 2
Tampa Bay 6 Colorado 5
**Tonight's games**
**(All times Eastern)**
New Jersey at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Washington, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Columbus, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.

## BLUES 3, CANUCKS 2

**First Period**
1. St. Louis, Steen 6 (D'Agostini, Berglund) 4:13
2. Vancouver, Hansen 2 (Tambellini, Ballard) 11:55

**Penalties** — Colaiacovo StL (cross-checking, fighting), Ballard Vcr (fighting) 1:58, Burrows Vcr (hooking) 13:01, Della Rovere StL (goaltender interference) 15:58, Bieksa Vcr (hooking) 18:40.

**Second Period**
3. St. Louis, D'Agostini 7 (Brewer, Steen) 1:55
4. Vancouver, Bieksa 2 (D.Sedin) 7:05

**Penalties** — Bolduc Vcr (tripping) 3:04, Johnson StL (tripping) 5:00, D.Sedin Vcr (holding stick) 11:13, D'Agostini StL (goaltender interference) 17:49.

**Third Period**
5. St. Louis, Steen 7, 6:11

**Penalties** — Backes StL (holding stick) 9:52, Samuelsson Vcr (high-sticking; served by Torres) 17:32.

**Shots**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| St. Louis | 10 | 10 | 8 | 28 |
| Vancouver | 7 | 9 | 7 | 23 |

**Goal** — St. Louis: Halak (W,11-7-3); Vancouver: Luongo (L,11-8-2). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — St. Louis: 0-5; Vancouver: 0-5.
**Att.** — 18,810 (18,810) at Vancouver.

## BLACKHAWKS 4, FLAMES 2

**First Period**
1. Chicago, Bickell 5 (Campbell) 4:14 (pp)
2. Chicago, Bolland 2 (Toews, Seabrook) 10:21 (pp)
3. Calgary, Iginla 11 (Bourque, Bouwmeester) 13:06 (pp)
4. Calgary, Babchuk 4 (Giordano, Morrison) 16:28 (pp)
5. Chicago, Toews 12 (Kopecky, Seabrook) 17:33 (pp)

**Penalties** — Regehr Cal (holding) 3:03, Kotalik Cal (delay of game) 9:27, Moss Cal (high-sticking) 10:08, Stalberg Chi (holding stick) 12:11, Morin Chi (boarding) 16:00, Moss Cal (double high-sticking) 16:49.

**Second Period**
No Scoring.

**Penalties** — Giordano Cal (tripping) 8:48, Staios Cal, Kopecky Chi (slashing) 9:56, Boynton Chi (tripping) 13:43, Staios Cal, Dowell Chi (fighting) 16:33, Sharp Chi (hooking) 17:49.

**Third Period**
6. Chicago, Bolland 3 (Seabrook, Keith) 19:45 (en-pp)

**Penalties** — Bourque Cal (tripping) 5:56, Giordano Cal (delay of game) 8:28, Seabrook Chi (double high-sticking) 8:51, Bolland Chi (holding) 14:22, Dowell Chi (slashing) 16:11, Bouwmeester Cal (hooking) 18:12.

**Shots**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Calgary | 8 | 8 | 10 | 26 |
| Chicago | 13 | 11 | 8 | 32 |

**Goal** — Calgary: Kiprusoff (L,9-13-1); Chicago: Crawford (W,7-4-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Calgary: 2-8; Chicago: 4-9.
**Att.** — 21,112 (19,717) at Chicago.

## SCORING LEADERS

| | G | A | PT |
|---|---|---|---|
| Crosby, Pgh | 23 | 23 | 46 |
| Stamkos, TB | 21 | 19 | 40 |
| Ovechkin, Wash | 11 | 23 | 34 |
| St. Louis, TB | 11 | 23 | 34 |
| Semin, Wash | 18 | 14 | 32 |
| D.Sedin, Vcr | 14 | 17 | 31 |
| Backstrom, Wash | 11 | 19 | 30 |
| B.Richards, Dal | 11 | 19 | 30 |

# GOLF

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**Fifth Round**

| | |
|---|---|
| Billy Mayfair | 69-69-68-68-67—341 |
| Ben Martin | 66-68-67-69-71—341 |
| Bio Kim | 70-70-66-68-68—342 |
| Will Strickler | 72-69-67-68-68—344 |
| William McGirt | 69-72-68-66-69—344 |
| Zack Miller | 70-68-67-68-71—344 |
| Cameron Tringale | 69-67-69-69-71—345 |
| Nate Smith | 73-69-66-67-70—345 |
| Gary Woodland | 71-68-69-71-67—346 |
| Michael Putnam | 71-73-69-66-67—346 |
| Brandt Jobe | 72-65-71-69-69—346 |
| Jarrod Lyle | 70-68-71-67-70—346 |
| Billy Horschel | 70-72-66-68-70—346 |
| Scott Stallings | 71-71-67-65-72—346 |
| James Driscoll | 68-68-69-66-75—346 |
| Camilo Benedetti | 73-73-71-64-66—347 |
| **Matt McQuillan** | **70-67-72-72-66—347** |
| Sunghoon Kang | 68-67-71-71-70—347 |
| Kent Jones | 70-68-71-68-70—347 |
| Jeff Quinney | 74-65-69-69-70—347 |
| Paul Stankowski | 69-72-66-68-72—347 |
| Joe Affrunti | 74-70-66-70-68—348 |
| Kyle Stanley | 65-70-69-75-69—348 |
| Michael Thompson | 73-72-69-65-69—348 |
| Ryan Armour | 71-72-70-69-66—348 |
| Justin Hicks | 72-71-70-65-70—348 |
| Richard S. Johnson | 72-71-68-70-68—349 |
| Carlos Franco | 70-66-71-74-68—349 |
| Jim Renner | 72-68-73-69-67—349 |
| Scott Gordon | 70-70-67-71-71—349 |
| Luke Hickmott | 72-69-66-71-71—349 |
| Richard Lee | 73-68-67-69-72—349 |
| Josh Geary | 69-67-72-70-72—350 |
| Joseph Bramlett | 67-73-69-69-72—350 |
| Shawn Jasper | 70-72-72-69-67—350 |
| Danny Wax | 69-70-69-72-71—351 |
| Tommy Biershenk | 71-70-71-68-71—351 |
| Andres Gonzales | 70-71-68-71-71—351 |
| Nicholas Thompson | 72-71-71-68-69—351 |
| J.J. Killeen | 71-68-70-69-73—351 |
| Gavin Coles | 69-72-71-67-72—351 |
| **Chris Baryla** | **72-61-73-71-74—351** |
| Mathew Goggin | 73-74-65-71-68—351 |
| Charles Warren | 70-67-70-70-74—351 |
| Alexandre Rocha | 72-73-70-68-68—351 |
| Will MacKenzie | 72-73-70-66-71—352 |
| Danny Lee | 74-72-69-65-72—352 |
| Jake Younan-Wise | 72-72-71-73-65—353 |
| Stephen Gangluff | 70-77-67-68-70—352 |
| Tyrone Van Aswegen | 72-70-73-68-69—352 |
| Michael Letzig | 73-71-69-72-67—352 |
| Dustin Garza | 73-70-70-68-72—353 |
| Seung Ho Lee | 69-67-71-73-73—353 |
| Sang-moon Bae | 76-70-66-70-71—353 |
| Briny Baird | 79-66-69-68-71—353 |
| **Jon Mills** | **75-71-71-70-67—354** |
| Aaron Watkins | 73-72-67-70-71—353 |
| Greg Owen | 76-69-70-71-68—354 |
| **Also** | |
| **Richard T. Lee** | **71-71-74-72-67—355** |
| **Matthew Richardson** | **74-69-73-69-72—357** |
| **Ted Brown** | **71-78-70-72-70—361** |
| **David McKenzie** | **75-74-71-71-72—363** |

## LPGA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

**At Orlando, Fla.**
**Par 72**
**Final Round**

| | |
|---|---|
| Maria Hjorth, $225,000 | 72-68-71-72—283 |
| Amy Yang, $137,860 | 67-70-73-74—284 |
| In-Kyung Kim, $88,686 | 73-73-70-70—286 |
| Cristie Kerr, $88,686 | 71-71-71-73—286 |
| Na Yeon Choi, $56,608 | 73-71-73-70—287 |
| Laura Diaz, $56,608 | 74-71-69-73—287 |
| Mariajo Uribe, $36,041 | 73-70-76-71—290 |
| Beatriz Recari, $36,041 | 74-72-72-72—290 |
| Angela Stanford, $36,041 | 73-72-73-72—290 |
| Ilhee Lee, $36,041 | 75-70-72-73—290 |
| Sandra Gal, $24,215 | 75-73-74-69—291 |
| Suzann Pettersen, $24,215 | 73-73-73-72—291 |
| Song-Hee Kim, $24,215 | 71-73-74-73—291 |
| Se Ri Pak, $24,215 | 74-69-74-74—291 |
| Morgan Pressel, $24,215 | 73-69-74-75—291 |
| Katherine Hull, $24,215 | 72-70-74-75—291 |
| Mika Miyazato, $18,416 | 79-70-72-71—292 |
| Christina Kim, $18,416 | 75-72-73-72—292 |
| Heather Bowie Young, $18,416 | 63-73-71-75—292 |
| Seon Hwa Lee, $18,416 | 67-73-73-79—292 |
| Yani Tseng, $16,756 | 75-73-74-71—293 |
| **Mina Harigae, $11,397** | **77-73-72-78—300** |
| **Did Not Qualify for Final Round** | |
| Alena Sharp, $10,038 | 76-71-74-221-DQ |

# NBA

## EASTERN CONFERENCE

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| d-Boston | 16 | 4 | .800 | — |
| d-Orlando | 15 | 5 | .750 | 1 |
| Atlanta | 13 | 8 | .619 | 3½ |
| Miami | 13 | 8 | .619 | 3½ |
| New York | 12 | 9 | .571 | 4½ |
| d-Chicago | 10 | 8 | .556 | 5 |
| Indiana | 9 | 9 | .500 | 6 |
| Toronto | 8 | 12 | .400 | 8 |
| Milwaukee | 7 | 12 | .368 | 8½ |
| Charlotte | 7 | 13 | .350 | 9 |
| Cleveland | 7 | 13 | .350 | 9 |
| Detroit | 7 | 14 | .333 | 9½ |
| Washington | 6 | 13 | .316 | 9½ |
| Philadelphia | 6 | 14 | .300 | 10 |
| New Jersey | 6 | 15 | .286 | 10½ |

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| d-San Antonio | 17 | 3 | .850 | — |
| Dallas | 16 | 4 | .800 | 1 |
| d-Utah | 15 | 6 | .714 | 2½ |
| d-L.A. Lakers | 14 | 6 | .700 | 3 |
| Denver | 13 | 6 | .684 | 3½ |
| Oklahoma City | 14 | 7 | .667 | 3½ |
| New Orleans | 13 | 7 | .650 | 4 |
| Phoenix | 11 | 9 | .550 | 6 |
| Portland | 9 | 11 | .450 | 8 |
| Golden State | 8 | 12 | .400 | 9 |
| Memphis | 8 | 13 | .381 | 9½ |
| Houston | 7 | 13 | .350 | 10 |
| Minnesota | 5 | 15 | .250 | 12 |
| Sacramento | 4 | 14 | .222 | 12 |
| L.A. Clippers | 4 | 17 | .190 | 13½ |

d-division leader
**Yesterday's results**
Boston 100, New Jersey 75
New York 116, Toronto 99
Detroit 102, Cleveland 92
Oklahoma City 114, Golden State 109
San Antonio 109, New Orleans 84
Denver 108, Memphis 107
Phoenix 125, Washington 108
Portland 100, L.A. Clippers 91
**Saturday's results**
Miami 89, Atlanta 77
Philadelphia 109, Charlotte 91
Chicago 119, Houston 116, OT
Minnesota 129, Cleveland 95
Milwaukee 96, Orlando 85
Dallas 105, Sacramento 103
**Tonight's games**
**All times Eastern**
Toronto at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Miami at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Memphis at Utah, 9 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
**Tomorrow's games**
New Jersey at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Denver at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Portland, 10 p.m.
Washington at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

## KNICKS 116, RAPTORS 99

**NEW YORK (116)**
Chandler 8-14 2-2 21, Gallinari 2-7 0-0 6, Stoudemire 12-24 7-7 31, Felton 8-18 1-1 18, Fields 5-10 3-4 15, Douglas 2-7 1-2 5, Mozgov 1-2 4-5 6, Williams 5-6 0-0 14. Totals 43-88 18-21 116.
**TORONTO (99)**
Weems 2-8 0-0 4, Johnson 10-14 2-4 22, Bargnani 8-19 0-0 16, Calderon 5-8 1-2 13, DeRozan 4-8 4-6 12, Davis 2-3 2-6 6, Barbosa 1-9 0-0 3, Kleiza 0-2 0-0 0, Bayless 8-16 2-4 23, Wright 0-0 0-0 0, Dorsey 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 40-87 11-22 99.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New York | 33 | 27 | 22 | 34 | 116 |
| Toronto | 18 | 32 | 25 | 24 | 99 |

3-Point Goals—New York 12-27 (Williams 4-4, Chandler 3-7, Fields 2-2, Gallinari 2-6, Felton 1-6, Douglas 0-2), Toronto 8-19 (Bayless 5-7, Calderon 2-3, Barbosa 1-5, Bargnani 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—New York 51 (Stoudemire 16), Toronto 55 (Johnson 16). Assists—New York 22 (Felton 8), Toronto 22 (Calderon, Bayless 6). Total Fouls—New York 13, Toronto 19. Technicals—Stoudemire, Toronto defensive three second. A—16,891 (19,800) at Toronto

# TRANSACTIONS

## BASEBALL

### MLB

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**
WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Agreed to terms with OF Jayson Werth on a seven-year contract.

## FOOTBALL

### NFL

NEW YORK JETS—Signed WR Laveranues Coles.

## HOCKEY

### NHL

ANAHEIM DUCKS—Activated RW Joffrey Lupul from the long-term injury list. Assigned RW Dan Sexton to Syracuse (AHL).
OTTAWA SENATORS—Recalled F Bobby Butler from Binghamton (AHL).
VANCOUVER CANUCKS—Recalled F Alexandre Bolduc from Manitoba (AHL).

# SOCCER

## ENGLAND

### PREMIER LEAGUE

| Team | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arsenal | 16 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 34 | 18 | 32 |
| Man United | 15 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 35 | 16 | 31 |
| Chelsea | 16 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 30 | 11 | 30 |
| Man City | 16 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 21 | 12 | 29 |
| Tottenham | 16 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 24 | 21 | 26 |
| Bolton | 16 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 28 | 23 | 23 |
| Sunderland | 16 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 20 | 18 | 23 |
| West Brom | 16 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 23 | 27 | 22 |
| Stoke | 16 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 21 | 21 | 21 |
| Blackburn | 16 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 21 | 25 | 21 |
| Newcastle | 16 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 24 | 25 | 19 |
| Liverpool | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 17 | 19 | 19 |
| Blackpool | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 23 | 29 | 19 |
| Birmingham | 16 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 17 | 19 | 18 |
| Everton | 16 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 18 | 20 | 17 |
| Aston Villa | 15 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 17 | 24 | 17 |
| Fulham | 16 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 16 | 20 | 15 |
| Wigan | 16 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 28 | 15 |
| Wolverhampton | 16 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 17 | 30 | 12 |
| West Ham | 16 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 14 | 27 | 12 |

**Yesterday's results**
Sunderland 1 West Ham 0
West Bromwich Albion 3 Newcastle 1

## FRANCE

### LIGUE 1

**Yesterday's results**
Lille 6 Lorient 3
Nice 1 Marseille 0
Paris Saint-Germain 3 Brest 1
Saint-Etienne 2 Bordeaux 2

## GERMANY

### BUNDESLIGA

**Yesterday's results**
Bayer Leverkusen 3 Cologne 2
Nuremberg 0 Borussia Dortmund 2

## ITALY

### SERIE A

Yesterday's results
Catania 1 Juventus 3
Cesena 0 Bologna 2
Fiorentina 1 Cagliari 0
Lecce 1 Genoa 3
Parma 2 Udinese 1
Sampdoria 3 Bari 0

## SPAIN

### LA LIGA

**Yesterday's results**
Almeria 1 Zaragoza 1
Espanyol 1 Sporting Gijon 0
Getafe 3 Mallorca 0
Malaga 4 Racing Santander 1
Real Sociedad 2 Athletic Bilbao 0
Villarreal 1 Sevilla 0

# NFL

## AMERICAN CONFERENCE

**EAST**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New England | 9 | 2 | 0 | .818 | 334 | 266 |
| N.Y. Jets | 9 | 2 | 0 | .818 | 264 | 187 |
| Miami | 6 | 6 | 0 | .500 | 215 | 238 |
| Buffalo | 2 | 10 | 0 | .167 | 243 | 333 |

**SOUTH**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jacksonville | 7 | 5 | 0 | .583 | 257 | 300 |
| Indianapolis | 6 | 6 | 0 | .500 | 317 | 290 |
| Houston | 5 | 7 | 0 | .417 | 288 | 321 |
| Tennessee | 5 | 7 | 0 | .417 | 263 | 235 |

**NORTH**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pittsburgh | 9 | 3 | 0 | .750 | 267 | 191 |
| Baltimore | 8 | 4 | 0 | .667 | 260 | 201 |
| Cleveland | 5 | 7 | 0 | .417 | 229 | 239 |
| Cincinnati | 2 | 10 | 0 | .167 | 255 | 322 |

**WEST**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kansas City | 8 | 4 | 0 | .667 | 295 | 237 |
| Oakland | 6 | 6 | 0 | .500 | 283 | 269 |
| San Diego | 6 | 6 | 0 | .500 | 323 | 253 |
| Denver | 3 | 9 | 0 | .250 | 256 | 333 |

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

**EAST**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N.Y. Giants | 8 | 4 | 0 | .667 | 308 | 247 |
| Philadelphia | 8 | 4 | 0 | .667 | 344 | 281 |
| Washington | 5 | 7 | 0 | .417 | 222 | 293 |
| Dallas | 4 | 8 | 0 | .333 | 294 | 336 |

**SOUTH**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Atlanta | 10 | 2 | 0 | .833 | 304 | 233 |
| New Orleans | 9 | 3 | 0 | .750 | 299 | 227 |
| Tampa Bay | 7 | 5 | 0 | .583 | 243 | 251 |
| Carolina | 1 | 11 | 0 | .083 | 154 | 307 |

**NORTH**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chicago | 9 | 3 | 0 | .750 | 246 | 192 |
| Green Bay | 8 | 4 | 0 | .667 | 303 | 182 |
| Minnesota | 5 | 7 | 0 | .417 | 227 | 253 |
| Detroit | 2 | 10 | 0 | .167 | 278 | 306 |

**WEST**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Seattle | 6 | 6 | 0 | .500 | 240 | 289 |
| St. Louis | 6 | 6 | 0 | .500 | 232 | 237 |
| San Francisco | 4 | 8 | 0 | .333 | 203 | 259 |
| Arizona | 3 | 9 | 0 | .250 | 200 | 338 |

## WEEK 13

**Yesterday's results**
Atlanta 28 Tampa Bay 24
Chicago 24 Detroit 20
Cleveland 13 Miami 10
Dallas 38 Indianapolis 35 (OT)
Green Bay 34 San Francisco 16
Jacksonville 17 Tennessee 6
Kansas City 10 Denver 6
Minnesota 38 Buffalo 14
New Orleans 34 Cincinnati 30
N.Y. Giants 31 Washington 7
Oakland 28 San Diego 13
Seattle 31 Carolina 14
St. Louis 19 Arizona 6
Pittsburgh 13 Baltimore 10
**Thursday's result**
Philadelphia 34 Houston 24
**Tonight's game**
**(All times Eastern)**
N.Y. Jets at New England, 8:30 p.m.

## WEEK 14

**Thursday, Dec. 9**
Indianapolis at Tennessee, 8:20 p.m.
**Sunday, Dec. 12**
N.Y. Giants at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Washington, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Seattle at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
St. Louis at New Orleans, 4:05 p.m.
Kansas City at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.
Denver at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
New England at Chicago, 4:15 p.m.
Miami at N.Y. Jets, 4:15 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 8:20 p.m.
**Monday, Dec. 13**
Baltimore at Houston, 8:30 p.m.

# Held back by injury?

## Favre's football fate for his 298th game unsure after shoulder sprain

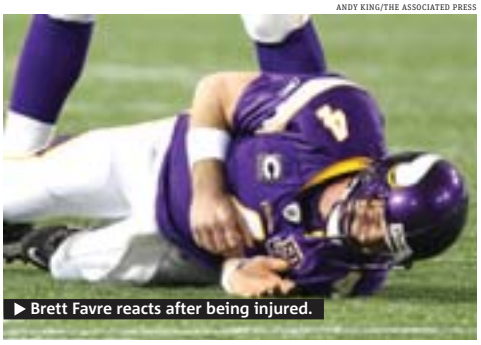
Brett Favre has become something of a medical expert through the years, a quarterback who has minored in pain management as he has put together a streak of consecutive starts that stands among the most impressive records in all of sports.

Yet even a 41-year-old who has played 20 seasons in the league still can learn something new, and Favre is now faced with a pain and an injury that he's never felt before.

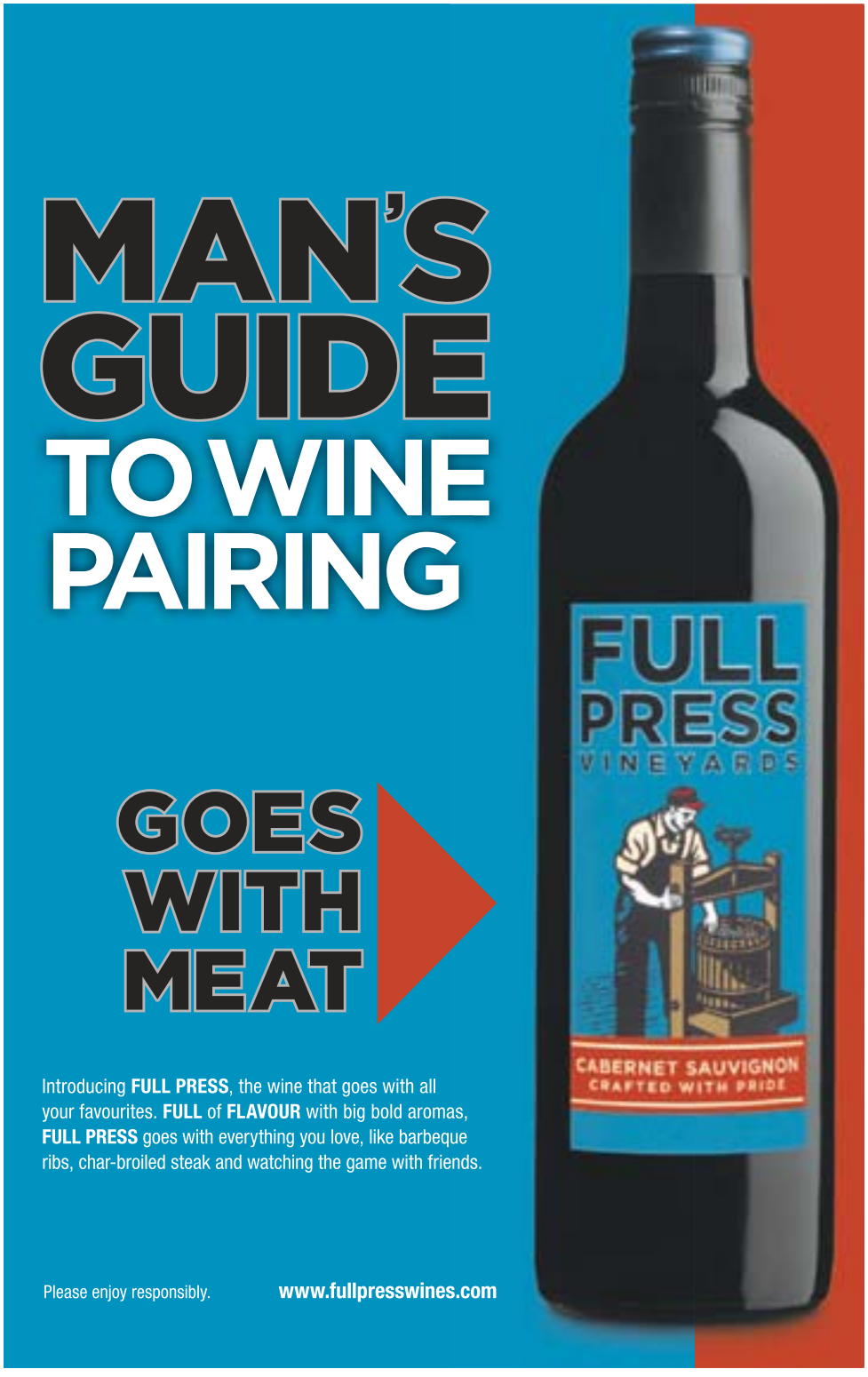
Favre sprained the sternoclavicular joint in his throwing shoulder after getting crunched by Bills linebacker Arthur Moats yesterday, an injury that leaves the Minnesota Vikings quarterback unsure of whether he will be able to start his 298th straight regular season game next week. The Vikings beat the Bills, 38-14.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANDY KING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Brett Favre reacts after being injured.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## Werth's contract worth $126 million US

**12** Werth's contract matched the 12th-largest among current players.

Some general managers had just arrived at the winter meetings and some were not even at the winter meetings yet when the Washington Nationals made a startling announcement yesterday evening: They had agreed with right-fielder Jayson Werth on a $126 million US, seven-year contract.

"I thought they were trying to reduce the deficit in Washington," new Mets general manager Sandy Alderson said. The 31-year-old Werth, who helped the Phillies win the 2008 World Series title, hit .296 this year in his fourth and final season with Philadelphia. He had an NL-high 46 doubles, 27 homers and 85 RBIs.

His agreement was announced two days after the Nationals' cleanup hitter, Adam Dunn, left for a $56 million US, four-year contract with the Chicago White Sox.

"We took some light criticism about Adam Dunn leaving," Nationals manager Jim Riggleman said, speaking in the news conference room after the announcement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## In the Premier League's top 6

Sunderland and West Bromwich Albion both kept in touch with the Premier League's top six sides yesterday, Sunderland beating West Ham 1-0 and the Baggies defeating Newcastle 3-1. Jordan Henderson scored his first goal for a year in the 34th minute to lift Sunderland into seventh place and push West Ham back to the bottom of the standings. West Bromwich Albion climbed to eighth after a goal by Somen Tchoyi and two from Peter Odemwingie secured a first league win over Newcastle in 26 years. Sunderland trails sixth-place Bolton only on goal difference.

Arsenal moved into first place Saturday with a 2-1 win over Fulham after previous leader Manchester United's game at Blackpool was postponed because of a frozen pitch.

Henderson was picked as man of the match after he gave his side all three points.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLIVE MASON/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Peter Lovenkrands of Newcastle United rues a missed opportunity.

**"I thought everything about today was good. We scored three great goals and we controlled the game for the majority of the time."**

WEST BROM MANAGER ROBERTO DI MATTEO

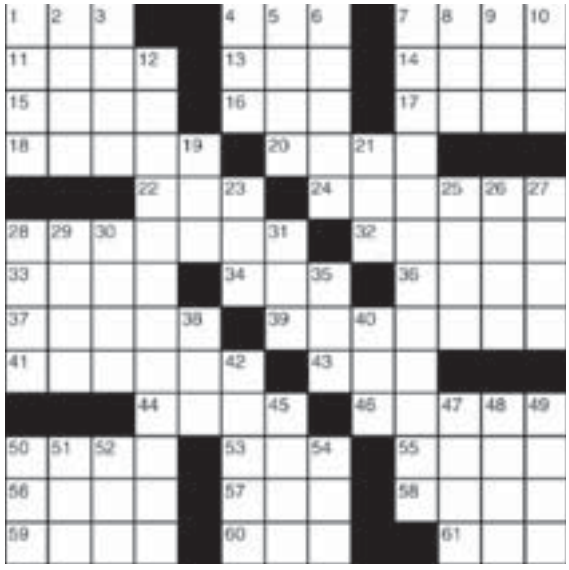
## Crossword

**Across**

1 12-Down's network
4 Upper limb
7 Relaxation
11 Historic periods
13 Hawaiian neckwear
14 Mid-month date
15 Mischievous Norse god
16 Remiss
17 Capricorn critter
18 Between, in verse
20 Oodles
22 Playground game
24 Rowling's Harry
28 Hedonistic fellow
32 Entire
33 Weaving device
34 Lummox
36 English river
37 "Little Orphan —"
39 Got ripe
41 Quite small
43 Tavern
44 "Once — a time"
46 Perfect
50 Cushiony
53 Youngster
55 — Romeo (car)
56 Leg joint
57 — out a living
58 Knitter's need
59 Deviates off course
60 Stitch
61 Affirmative action?

**Down**

1 Irishman, e.g.
2 Forehead
3 H.H. Munro pseudonym
4 Every last bit
5 Paper quantity
6 Confusion
7 9-to-5 shift, e.g.
8 Fuss
9 Red or Black
10 Superlative suffix
12 Andy Rooney's show
19 Bill
21 Heifer's mom
23 Sticky stuff
25 Go sightseeing
26 Otherwise
27 Clarinet insert
28 Troop grp.
29 Unescorted
30 Top-rated
31 Sweet potato
35 "Great!"
38 Kreskin's claim
40 Mai — (cocktail)
42 Draft animals' joiners
45 Sneaker brand
47 Verve
48 Frizzy hairdo
49 Settle to earth
50 Firmament
51 — budget
52 Not many
54 Morning moisture



▶ Yesterday's answer

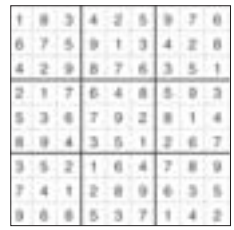
## Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 8 | 5 | 9 | | 4 | | | 7 |
| | 1 | 7 | | | | | | 3 |
| 6 | | | 3 | | | | | |
| 9 | 6 | | | | 5 | | | |
| | 4 | 1 | | | | 9 | 5 | |
| | | | 8 | | | | 3 | 6 |
| | | | | | 2 | | | 9 |
| 7 | | | | | | 2 | 8 | |
| 2 | | | 1 | | 6 | 7 | 4 | |

## How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶



## Send a KISS

**Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca**

*Mumzey, after all those years, you are still my # one! Happy birthday. I C U.*
**POPS**

*Bubba I know this past month isn't the greatest but I want you to know, I will always love you. I fell in love with you the day I met you and that love has only grown stronger. I'm sorry for whatever it is I've done. The only thing I want is my baby. Without you, I am nothing. I really love you babe, please take me back!*
**YOUR BABBA, XOXO**

*To My Baby Love, Wishing for an angel to come down to me, and then I met you. You truely are the best girl I ever met and all the time we spent together i wouldn't trade for anything in the world. You mean everthing to me and I'd do anything for you, in short I just want to tell you I love you babes <3*
**YOUR NERD ROBERTO B :P**

## Today's horoscope

*For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca*

**♈ Aries March 21-April 20**
With Mercury linked to Pluto today it may feel as if others have the upper hand, but that need not be the case. Your sense of powerlessness is largely in your mind.

**♉ Taurus April 21-May** The planets will cause a conflict with someone you care about today. That may not sound like good news but deep down you know it is time to bring certain issues into the open

**♊ Gemini May 22-June 21** The pressure has been building for quite some time and at some stage today it will reach boiling point. Whatever life throws at you over the next 24 hours just pick it up and throw it back.

**♋ Cancer June 22-July 22** You can be somewhat stubborn when the mood takes you and with mind plant Mercury close to Pluto in your opposite sign you won't give way on anything today, no matter how petty or small.

**♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23** No amount of compromise will solve the stalemate you find yourself in today, so all you can do is fight for what you believe and hope you come out on top.

**♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22** Different people see things in different ways and if you can accept that today you won't have too many problems, either at home or at work. You may not like what some people believe in but agree to disagree anyway.

**♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23** You must keep a sense of perspective today, especially where domestic issues are concerned, because if you allow annoying situations to get under your skin you may say or do something that makes things worse.

**♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22** You are sure to be assertive and ambitious today but don't come on so strong that you put people off.

**♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21** A money-making opportunity will come at you out of the blue today and hopefully you won't be too shocked to take advantage of it.

**♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20** Don't go back on a promise you made to a friend or loved one because you'll regret it if you do. Live up to your obligations

**♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18** What happens today may shock you a bit but you should have seen it coming. On the other hand it's unlikely to be as bad as it first looks

**♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20** You will finally discover what has been going on today and it won't be anywhere near as dreadful as you had imagined.
SALLY BROMPTON

THEMBA HADEBE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Caption contest

WIN!

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